GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5610
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2007
DECREASE IN LANDLINE SUBSCRIBERS IN RURAL AREAS
Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of landline telephone subscribers in rural areas is decreasing as reported in the `Rashtriya Sahara,` dated April 18, 2007;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the number of mobile users in rural areas is increasing;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the percentage of increase in the number of mobile users in comparison to that of landline users during the year 2006-07 as on date, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reasons for decrease of landline telephone subscribers are as under:

(i) Decrease in tariff rates of mobile phones;

(ii) Availability of pre-paid facility in mobile phones;

(iii) Easy mobility of mobile phones;

(iv) Entry of private service providers in mobile market of rural areas; and

(v) Availability of number of features in mobile phones which are generally not available on landline phones.

(c) & (d) There was no segregation between landline and mobile phone before March, 2007 in rural areas. As on 31st March, 2007, the total number of landline users in rural areas is 1,25,49,077 as compared to mobile users of 1,07,57,755 in these areas.

(e) A statement indicating the State-wise percentage of increase in the number of mobile users in comparision to that of landline users in respect of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the year 2006-07 is given in the Annexure.